

CMS Special Open Door Forum to Discuss Beneficiary Outreach and Application Procedures for Medicare Replacement Drug Coverage Demonstration (Section 641 of MMA)

When: Tuesday, June 29th 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (EST)

Section 641 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Modernization, and Improvement Act of 2003 requires that the Secretary conduct a demonstration under Part B of Title XVIII of the Social Security Act under which payment would be made for “drugs or biologicals that are prescribed as replacements for drugs and biologicals described in section 1861(s)(2)(A) or 1861(s)(2)(Q)” (i.e. currently covered under Part B).

On January 30, 2004 and April 23, 2004, CMS held Special Open Door Forums to gather input related to implementation of this provision. CMS has considered all of the comments received at these sessions, as well as materials subsequently submitted in writing, and will soon formally announce the details of this demonstration – including the drugs to be covered, beneficiary eligibility requirements, and application procedures – in the Federal Register.

CMS is holding this third Open Door Forum specifically to bring together TrailBlazer Health Enterprises, LLC, the contractor that will handle eligibility and enrollment processing, with beneficiary advocacy groups, physician specialty groups, and others who work with beneficiaries and/or have other means of reaching out to beneficiaries about the application forms and application process. The primary focus of this forum will be on walking through the application form and answering any questions about the information being requested as well as explaining the process whereby beneficiaries will be selected for participation. Our goal is to ensure that all beneficiaries who may be eligible and interested in applying for this demonstration are made aware of it and have the opportunity to submit an application in a timely manner. Many organizations have generously indicated their willingness to work with us in this process. We realize that the assistance of beneficiary advocacy groups and physicians, among others, will be critical in reaching our shared goal and we are therefore, reaching out to you for assistance in this important task.

Due to time limitations, we will not be addressing other aspects of the demonstration at this meeting.

Information on Participation

There are two ways to participate--by phone or "in person."

1. To participate by phone:

Dial: 1-800-837-1935 & Reference Conference ID: 8106235

Persons participating by phone are not required to RSVP unless they wish to attend in person. For persons participating by telephone, handouts to be discussed at the meeting will be available the day of the meeting for downloading from our demonstration web site <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/researchers/demos/drugcoveredemo.asp>.

Note: TTY Communications Relay Services are available for the Hearing Impaired. For TTY services dial 7-1-1 or 1-800-855-2880 and for Internet Relay services click here <http://www.consumer.att.com/relay/which/index.html>.

A Relay Communications Assistant will help you.

2. To participate "in person" at the CMS Baltimore Site, an RSVP is required.

To RSVP and register your comments please send them via email to SECTION641DEMO@cms.hhs.gov by close of business, June 24, 2004. Please send us your name along with the name of your organization, and contact information (phone/fax/email). Please arrive no later than **9:30 AM (EST)** to allow time for parking and passing through security checkpoints. Photo identification is required at security points.

ADDRESS:

CMS Single Site Building

Multipurpose Room

7500 Security Boulevard

Baltimore, MD 21244

Map & Directions: <http://cmsnet.cms.hhs.gov/hpages/ocsq/cmsdirections-north.htm>

ENCORE: 1-800-642-1687; Conference ID# 8106235

"Encore" is a recording of this call that can be accessed by dialing 1-800-642-1687 and entering the Conference ID # beginning on **June 30, 2004**. The recording expires after 4 days.

For more information for more information visit our website at

www.cms.hhs.gov/opendoor/.

Thank you.